



# **South Coast Air Quality Management District**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Joseph Lyou, AQMD Governing Board Member, EJAG Chairman  
Rhetta Alexander, San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council  
Detrich Allen, City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs  
Suzanne Bilodeau, Knott's Berry Farm  
Paul Choe, Korean Drycleaners & Laundry Association  
Alycia Enciso, Small Business Owner  
Mary Figueroa, Riverside Community College  
Mimi Holt, SEIU Local 121 Registered Nurses  
Maria Elena Kennedy, Southern California Water Coalition  
Brenda LaMothe, S. Los Angeles Service Representative for L.A. Mayor  
Margaret Mapes, St. Joseph Center  
Jacqueline Martinez, PUMA  
Daniel Morales, National Alliance for Human Rights  
William Nelson, OC Signature Properties  
Paul Ong, UCLA School of Public Affairs  
Woodie Rucker-Hughes, NAACP – Riverside Branch

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Lawrence Beeson, Loma Linda University, School of Public Health  
Afif El-Hasan, American Lung Association  
Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE Los Angeles  
Evelyn Knight, Long Beach Economic Development Commission  
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for E.J.  
Nury Martinez, Pacoima Beautiful  
Salvador Ramirez, National Hispanic Environmental Council  
Fred Rodriguez, Veterans in Community Services, Inc.

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Nicole Nishimura, Board Member Assistant (*Lyou*)  
Bobby Kennedy

### **AQMD STAFF:**

Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor  
John Olvera, Principal Deputy District Counsel  
Alan Caldwell, Community Relations Manager  
Cheryl Marshall, Program Supervisor  
Dr. Jean Ospital, Health Effects Officer

Deanna Doerre, Office Assistant  
Eugene Kang, AQ Specialist  
Lady Noelle McDesmond, Governing Board Student Intern  
Nicole Mendoza, Secretary  
Rocio Santacruz, Sr. Public Information Specialist  
Jeanette Short, Sr. Administrative Secretary

**Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

Chair Dr. Joseph Lyou called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of May 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Lyou asked if there were any objections to the May 19, 2009 meeting minutes, upon hearing no objections minutes were approved.

Dr. Anupom Ganguli reviewed the action items from the May 19, 2009 EJAG meeting.

**Agenda Item #3 – Overview of Air Quality and AQMD**

Dr. Ganguli provided an overview of Air Quality and how the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) functions. Chair Lyou discussed proposed Rule 317, which requires AQMD to assess fees because we will not be in attainment of the federal air quality standards in 2010.

Ms. Maria Elena Kennedy asked if the California Air Resources Board (CARB) enacted regulations on particulate traps for diesel trucks. Chair Lyou explained that there are both on-road and off-road regulations that CARB has passed to reduce emissions from diesel trucks.

***Action Item:*** *Dr. Ganguli will send links to AQ-related Health Studies.*

During a discussion on ozone standards, Ms. Suzanne Bilodeau asked what was the former 1-hour ozone standard. Dr. Ganguli responded 0.12ppm or 120 ppb.

Mr. Paul Ong asked when ozone levels are out of compliance if it's the average for the whole region that determines whether you're above or below standard. Dr. Ganguli responded it is for any region any day. Ms. Alycia Enciso asked why the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study III (MATES III) map does not identify cities to make the areas easier to identify. In response, Chair Lyou pointed out the different regions and Dr. Ganguli explained how the county boundaries are outlined.

Mr. Ong said his understanding is that ultrafine and fine particulates are confined from 200-300 meters and by 300 meters it reaches a much larger area. Mr. Ong noted the health risks are enormously different with the change of 200-300 meters. Dr. Jean Ospital said it's a modeled concentration of the air toxics and it does not look at the ultrafine or nano particles. Mr. Ong said he is interested in studies related to the ultrafine particles. Dr. Ganguli said there is a good presentation that was given to the Governing Board on the roadway effect on fine particulates.

***Action Item:*** *Agendize presentation on the roadway effect on fine particulates.*

Chair Lyou invited Mr. Ong to present information to the group in the future.

Dr. Ganguli continued to review the MATES III map and explained the color grids. Ms. Kennedy commented that the most impacted communities are located adjacent to areas of increased goods

movement. Dr. Ganguli said that the criteria is based on toxic risk, income level, and PM 2.5. Ms. Enciso asked about the color scheme. Dr. Ganguli explained the red and purple were increases and the green were decreases. Dr. Ospital said the numbers are the change in risk.

Ms. Brenda LaMothe asked what are the primary contributing factors for decreases in particular areas. Dr. Ospital said the decreases in risk were mainly due to non-diesel components. However, he indicated that diesel emissions over the whole basin went down because of the change in the fleet and low sulfur fuels.

Ms. Detrich Allen asked if Climate Change awareness and what's happening globally will have some impact on how the Federal Government looks at the issue of Mobile Sources versus Stationary Sources. She commented that if 80% are Mobile Sources and freeways, then the group needs to develop strategies similar to the Federal Government to help minimize what's happening in EJ communities, and be specific about how EJAG can participate in the Climate Change debate.

Ms. Allen asked if AQMD still has the certification program that allows people outside of the district to be trained. Dr. Ganguli indicated on some topics certifications are available.

***Action Item:** Provide list of AQMD public training opportunities.*

Ms. Bilodeau asked how AQMD works with companies on the carpool program if they are not responsible for mobile sources. Dr. Ganguli explained AQMD has two types of carpool programs, one for the employees and a second requirement for average vehicle ridership for large employers.

***Action Item:** Provide more details on AQMD's carpool program.*

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Discuss Health Effects of Air Pollution**

Dr. Ospital presented on the health effects of air pollution in the AQMD region.

Ms. Mapes asked if there was a difference in findings for children during winter/summer sports. Dr. Ospital indicated that the research was not divided by season.

Chair Lyou asked Dr. Ospital what IHD was on the PM 2.5 and Mortality slide of his presentation showing exposure risks in Los Angeles vs. New York. Dr. Ospital replied that IHD stands for Ischemic Heart Disease or low blood flow to the heart.

Mr. Ong mentioned that people don't live in the same area they work, 44% commute 30 minutes to their place of work, according to 2005 and 2007 data. Dr. Ospital replied that MATES III is based on a regional level; it is not looking at individual exposure. He indicated the model is based on a 24/7, 70 year exposure because it is the way the state has set up the air toxics regulations. Dr. Ganguli mentioned that the MATES studies are based on actual measurements and then modeling. Mr. Ong responded by asking what is the goal and mission of EJ, and much of the talk is about policies that benefit everyone which may or may not get rid of inequality.

Ms. Woodie Rucker-Hughes asked which of the studies would reflect the effect of the poor air quality on kids who are growing up in inner cities and are confined versus those who are in suburbs that have more opportunity for better air. Dr. Ospital indicated these particular studies don't take that into account.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Discussion of Priorities From Past AQMD EJ Work Plans**

Chair Lyou discussed past EJ initiatives and work plan commitments. He indicated he did not feel that most were addressing pollution prevention and emission reduction issues and were not targeted to the most impacted communities. He requested for the next meeting a more focused discussion on Environmental Justice to recommend to the agency. He pointed out that AQMD cannot discriminate based on race and recommendations should focus on impacted communities.

**Action Item:** *Discuss the priorities for AQMD to develop a new EJAG work plan.*

Ms. LaMothe asked if there is a community that can be described as the highest impacted community that is not in a community of color or low income. Chair Lyou replied there are some small pockets in Long Beach and Dr. Ganguli mentioned there are communities near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Ms. Mary Figueroa commented that the information they are receiving at these meetings targets the greater Los Angeles area, but what about the Inland Empire. Dr. Ganguli responded by saying five of the thirteen Governing Board members are from the Inland Empire and AQMD attends meetings and participates in events in the Inland Empire.

Ms. Mapes mentioned children's health is something we should use to educate the community. Chair Lyou agreed with the idea of focusing on air quality and children's health as an outreach and educational focus.

Dr. Lyou requested members to review the priorities and be prepared to discuss them in more detail at the October meeting.

**Action Item:** *Members provide feedback on categories and priorities.*

Ms. Enciso complimented AQMD on the New Perspectives on Community Health and Air Quality Conference at USC and said it would be great to have a synopsis at the next meeting. Dr. Ganguli mentioned for those that were unable to attend, the presentations will be available online.

**Action Item:** *Notify members when the USC conference materials are available online.*

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Status Update on Air Toxics and Clean Communities Plan**

Ms. Cheryl Marshall presented an overview of the Clean Communities Plan and indicated the full presentation will be given at the October meeting.

Ms. Enciso asked if there is a listing of the cleaning products mentioned in the plan or available in AQMD literature. Dr. Ganguli indicated there is information available and he will list it as an action item.

**Action Item:** *Distribute the cleaning products information to members.*

Ms. Alexander mentioned the "Healthy Air Healthy Communities Family Fair" event held July 12, 2009. Dr. Ganguli acknowledged Ms. Alexander for her assistance in putting the event together. Dr. Ganguli announced the upcoming Town Hall Meeting on August 18, 2009 in the city of Cerritos regarding a study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Green Tech Conference on August 4, 2009. He informed EJAG members that if they want to attend the conference they will be provided complimentary admission.

Ms. Enciso mentioned the Inland Congregation United for Change (ICUC) Health and Family Fair upcoming on August 15, 2009.

Ms. Enciso requested information presented at the USC Health Conference regarding freeway walls and the electrical trains.

***Action Item:** Work with Ms. Enciso and provide the correct information.*

Dr. Lyou reviewed possible agenda items for next meeting, which included Clean Communities Plan Presentation, discussion of EJ Work Plan and possible Paul Ong presentation.

Dr. Ganguli discussed the future calendar for EJAG and announced the following dates: October 30, 2009, January 29, 2010, April 30, 2010, July 30, 2010, and October 29, 2010 all at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

***Action Item:** Email EJAG meeting dates to members.*

**Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment**

No Comments.

**Agenda Item #8 - Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.